

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A method is disclosed for the *Agrobacterium*-mediated germline genetic transformation of soybean. The method is based on *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene delivery to individual cells in a freshly germinated soybean meristem, which cells can be induced directly to form shoots that give rise to transgenic plants. This method does not involve callus-phase tissue culture and is rapid and efficient.